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Lt. Governor Skillman Encourages Hoosiers to Play Indiana's Golf Courses

CULVER, Ind., – Lt. Governor Becky Skillman visited Mystic Hills Golf Course today to encourage Hoosiers to play some of Indiana's beautiful golf courses during spring break this year.

"With some of the best courses in the country located here in Indiana, this spring break is a perfect time to take advantage of what's in your own backyard," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who oversees the state's tourism office.

The golf industry contributes \$1.7 billion to our state's economy. Golf experts reported that due to the mild winter, some courses didn't close in Indiana. Many were also able to open early this season due to the warmer temperatures.

Mystic Hills is part of the Pete Dye Trail, a group of courses designed by Pete Dye. See all the courses on the trail at www.petedyegolftrail.com or discover more than 30 golf discounts, and 61 trip ideas at www.VisitIndiana.com. Below are a few golf courses to explore during spring break.

Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel is the only golf course in Indiana designed by acclaimed architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Located on 206 acres this traditional course is set near the banks of the White River. Golfers will enjoy the natural beauty of the wetlands, five lakes, rolling prairie and mature trees that fill this course.

Walnut Creek Golf Courses in Marion has been recognized as an inviting course to all, even those who are not expert golfers. Designed as a shot-maker's course, it offers golfers a strategic round of golf. Visitors will not want to miss the Israel Jenkins House, which serves as the course's clubhouse. This home, built in 1839, may have served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. It is on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures.

The Pete Dye Course at French Lick was selected as the site for the 2010 PGA Professionals National Championship. This premium course, however, incorporates tees for golfers of all skill levels. All will appreciate the 40-mile panoramic views from one of Indiana's highest elevation points. The course's clubhouse stands at 1,000 feet above sea level. The converted clubhouse is an historic mansion built by Thomas Taggart, former Mayor of Indianapolis and owner of French Lick Springs Hotel. The Mansion has been resorted to full grandeur and is available for lodging.

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With two courses to choose from, the Golf Club at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth is tailored for beginners and advanced golfers. The Golf Academy at Swan Lake is staffed by several PGA golf professionals who are ready to give instruction throughout the year. Golfers looking to get-away will enjoy the several over-night options on property. Guest rooms, cottages and cabins are all available.

Otter Creek Golf Course in Columbus incorporates the gentle rolling hills of southern Indiana. This magnificent 27-hole course, designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, utilizes the natural contours of the land to ensure all golfers are challenged.

The Trophy Club in Lebanon is an 18-hole championship course featuring a links style layout. Built to USGA specifications, golfers will enjoy all 247 acres. The rolling terrain offers breathtaking views.

Sultan's Run Golf Club in Jasper is nestled in southern Indiana's countryside. This course, now under French Lick Resort's management, offers a world-class playing surface in a beautiful natural setting. The signature 18th hole incorporates a waterfall, which is also enjoyed by those relaxing in the clubhouse.

For a complete list of golf courses in Indiana by region, visit www.VisitIndianaGolf.com.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Amy Vaughan serves as the agency's director.